

## 2 Regulatory Environment

### 2.1 Introduction

The main legislative requirements for the McArthur River Mine Phase 3 Development Project (the Project) are outlined in this chapter, including whole-of-project approvals, permits and licences for specific activities. In addition, the Northern Territory Government's requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been recognised, together with legislation, policy, standards and codes of practice that are relevant to the Project.

An important aspect of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process is the provision of opportunities for public comment. Consultation is encouraged during the EIA process and formal submissions to the Northern Territory Government during the public exhibition period. Comments and submissions received in writing by the Northern Territory Government will be addressed in a separate EIS Supplement document, if required. Further discussion of the EIA process is provided in Chapter 1—Introduction.

The Project will require a number of approvals, permits and licences for its various components. The Project's assessment must also consider a number of relevant regulations and policy documents. In the Northern Territory, mining activities require approval under the *Mining Act 2005* (Mining Act), *Mining Management Act 2001* (MM Act) as in force at 7 November 2011 and the *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* (EA Act).

Development of this draft EIS has taken into consideration Commonwealth and Northern Territory legislation relating to the Project, discussed in more detail in Section 2.3 and 2.4:

Commonwealth Legislation:

- *Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*
- *Native Title Act 1993*.

Northern Territory Legislation:

- *Environmental Assessment Act 1982*
- *Mining Act 2005*
- *Mining Management Act 2001*
- *Mineral Titles Act 2010*
- *Water Act 2004*.

### 2.2 Previous Impact Assessments

#### 2.2.1 1992 EIS – Underground Mining

In 1992-1993, MIM Holdings (MIM) formed a joint-venture with a Japanese consortium (ANT Minerals (30%) comprising Nippon, Mitsui and Marubeni) to develop the McArthur River resource. A full feasibility study was completed and a decision made to proceed with the McArthur River Mine (MRM) as an underground mine. McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd (the Proponent for the Project) was formed to operate MRM on behalf of the joint-venture partners.

An environmental assessment was conducted under a joint arrangement between the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments via the EA Act and the then *Environmental Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*, respectively. The assessment considered an underground mine, processing facilities,

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

accommodation village, airstrip, tailings storage facility, and transport/port infrastructure. In May 1992, an EIS was submitted, with a Supplement EIS provided in July 1992. In November 1993, the *McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act 1992* was passed by the Northern Territory Government and MRM commenced commercial operations with an underground mine and processing plant in 1995.

## 2.2.2 2005 EIS – Conversion from Underground to Open Pit Mining

In 2001, a number of studies began to examine the long-term viability of MRM. At that time, the most accessible underground ore had been almost completely extracted and the underground mining operations, which comprised over 100 kilometres of underground tunnels, were becoming uneconomic. Feasibility studies were subsequently undertaken to investigate other options including an open pit development, on-site zinc refinery, power station and a weir on a local river for water supply. The Northern Territory Government released Guidelines for an EIS early in 2003.

In July 2003, MIM was acquired by Xstrata plc (Xstrata). Xstrata subsequently acquired ANT Minerals' share in the joint-venture in September 2005, securing total ownership of MRM. After a review by Xstrata Zinc (a fully owned subsidiary of Xstrata plc), it was decided the project proposal would proceed, but only involving an open pit development. In August 2005, Xstrata Zinc announced its intention to convert the MRM underground mine to an open pit operation to enable the mine to continue production. An EIS was lodged as part of the formal assessment process to the Northern Territory Government, based on the Guidelines issued in 2003. This was followed by the submission of an EIS Supplement (December 2005), Public Environmental Report (July 2006) and Mining Management Plan (MMP) (September 2006).

The Northern Territory Government approved MRM's open pit development in October 2006. Later that same month, the Federal Government provided its consent under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

On 17 December 2008, a decision by the Full Bench of the Australian Federal Court invalidated the original approval granted for MRM's open pit operation due to a procedural error by the Federal Government. As a result, all mining and civil works were suspended. MRM resubmitted its application to the Federal Environment Minister (the Minister) shortly after this judgement and on 22 January 2009, the Minister gave preliminary conditional approval for the expansion, subject to a 10-day consultation period. Stockpiled ore was processed at the site while mining was suspended. By 23 January 2009 stockpiles were depleted, at which time the operation was placed into care and maintenance. On 20 February 2009, the Minister approved MRM's open pit development and operations and mining recommenced.

## 2.2.3 Independent Monitor Auditing

As one of the conditions of the Northern Territory Government's 2005 approval of the open-pit development, MRM supports an annual independent environmental monitoring review. The review is managed by the Northern Territory Government and funded by MRM. An agreed independent consultant was appointed through a tender managed by the Northern Territory Government. Their role is to monitor the environmental performance of MRM by independently reviewing environmental assessments and monitoring activities undertaken by MRM and to review environmental assessments and audits undertaken by the Northern Territory Government regulator. The consultant has been appointed as the Independent Monitor for a five-year period (which commenced in December 2007) and is a condition of MRM's licence to operate under the MM Act.

The independent monitor audit reports have verified that MRM has consistently demonstrated a high level of conformance with respect to procedures and systems. Audits consider evidence of works undertaken and commitments to undertake further work or continual improvement. The Northern Territory Government's Department of Resources has also reviewed these audit reports and is satisfied that mining and related operations at MRM are not impacting significantly on the surrounding environment.

The results of the independent review are made publicly available for the community's information at <http://www.mrm-independentmonitor.com.au/>. This website enables ready access to information regarding the Independent Monitor's review of the environmental performance of the mine, including reports, community presentations and news updates.

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

## 2.3 Commonwealth Legislation and Policy Requirements

A summary of the applicable Commonwealth legislation, its purpose and relevance to the Project is provided below.

### 2.3.1 *Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006*

The *Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006* (EEO Act) aims to improve the identification and evaluation of energy efficiency opportunities by large energy using businesses and, as a result, encourage implementation of cost effective energy efficiencies.

To achieve its aim, the EEO Act requires energy consuming businesses to:

- undertake an assessment of their energy use to a minimum standard with a view to improving the way in which opportunities are identified and evaluated
- report publicly on the outcomes of that assessment to demonstrate to the community that those businesses are managing their energy use effectively.

The EEO Act outlines the broad requirements for high energy consuming businesses, and allows for the *Energy Efficiency Opportunities Regulations 2006* (EEO Regulation) to provide detailed requirements for assessment, reporting, verification and other elements of the programs.

The Project will operate in compliance with requirements of the EEO Act and EEO Regulation.

### 2.3.2 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Under the assessment and approval provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), actions that have, will have, or are likely to have a significant impact on one or more of the eight Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), are considered to be 'controlled actions' and require approval under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (SEWPAC) is responsible for administering the EPBC Act.

Matters considered to be of national environmental significance include:

- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance
- threatened species and ecological communities
- migratory species
- nuclear actions
- Commonwealth marine areas
- additional MNES ('prescribed actions').

A referral and assessment process determines the application of the EPBC Act. The first step in this process is referral of a project to SEWPAC. A project is then assessed for the potential for impacts upon MNES, and if this is likely, to establish the significance of these impacts. If it is determined that there will be, or there is likely to be, a significant impact to MNES, a project is declared to be a 'controlled action' and will require formal assessment under the EPBC Act.

On 9 June 2011, following referral to SEWPAC by Xstrata Zinc on 6 April 2011 in accordance with the EPBC Act, the Project was determined not to be a 'controlled action'.

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

Hence, the Project does not require approval from the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities under the EPBC Act.

## **2.3.3 National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007**

The *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act) introduces a single national reporting framework for the reporting and dissemination of information about the greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and energy production of businesses.

The NGER Act:

- underpins the potential future introduction of an emissions trading scheme in Australia
- informs government policy formulation and the Australian public
- helps meet Australia's international reporting obligations
- assists Commonwealth, State and Territory government programs and activities to avoid the duplication of similar reporting requirements in the States and Territories.

Once operational, the Project will be assessed against the NGER Act thresholds, and if triggered, will comply with all requirements of the NGER Act.

## **2.3.4 Native Title Act 1993**

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) provides for the recognition and protection of native title and contains suitable processes for affecting native title claims. The NT Act also sets out processes by which native title rights are established, protected and compensation determined, in addition to facilitating Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA's) between native title parties and other interest holders.

The NT Act performs a number of important functions: rights and interests of the Indigenous people over land and water possessed under their traditional laws and customs are recognised legally, basic principles are set out regarding native title in Australia and the governing body, the National Native Title Tribunal, administers the regulatory framework. Land over which native title has been either partially or completely extinguished is identified in the NT Act, including land to which (prior to 23 December 1996) the Commonwealth had granted or vested title such as freehold title or leases that give exclusive possession.

MRM is situated on pastoral land on the old McArthur River Station. In 1992, the Commonwealth Government negotiated directly with the Gurdanji Traditional Owners to compensate for the establishment of the mine. The Gurdanji Traditional Owners agreed to relinquish title in return for the nearby Bauhinia Station. Excisions from the mine's land were subsequently made for the Caranbirini Conservation Reserve, a 1,200 hectare reserve within the McArthur River Station managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, and an additional parcel for a Gurdanji Traditional Owner.

The original agreement was made prior to the High Court Mabo decision in December 1992. Granting of the mining leases was validated as 'past acts' under the NT Act, the *McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Amendment Act 1982* and the *Validation (Native Title) Act 1998*. As the Project is on the same lease as all previous operations, MRM is not required to re-open negotiations with Traditional Owners.

MRM has worked closely with the Traditional Owners of the land, in order to ensure cultural heritage is appropriately and effectively protected and managed and the wishes of Traditional Owners are continually respected.

## **2.4 Northern Territory Legislation and Policy Requirements**

Initial environmental permitting of mining activities is regulated in the Northern Territory by both the MM Act and the EA Act. A decision on the appropriate permitting route for new mining proposals is initiated by a proponent's submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Northern Territory Government through the Minerals and Energy Referral Assessment branch of the Department of Resources.

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

If assessment under the EA Act is required, the NOI is referred to the Northern Territory Government's Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage (the Minister) through the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) for determination of the appropriate level of assessment.

The Project's NOI was lodged on 11 March 2011 before being referred to the Minister for consideration. On 16 June 2011, the Minister determined that the Project required the preparation of an EIS under the EA Act. The primary Project attributes contributing to the Minister's decision include:

- Tailings Storage Facility seepage (existing and long term effects)
- Overburden Emplacement Facility management
- natural disasters and extreme climatic conditions that may degrade landforms in the long term
- mine closure and long term management.

Draft Guidelines for the preparation of the EIS were issued on 23 July 2011, and the Final Guidelines issued on 19 August 2011, following a two week public comment period and a two week period for NRETAS to consider the comments received.

This draft EIS addresses the Final Guidelines and provides the basis upon which assessment and approval by the Northern Territory Government will be made. Comments on the draft EIS will be addressed in an EIS Supplement, if required, which will then be followed by an Assessment Report issued by the Northern Territory Government within 28 days of the EIS Supplement being provided.

Further discussion on the Project's environmental impact assessment process is provided in Chapter 1 – Introduction and Section 2.7.

Once the assessment and approval process is completed by the Minister (assisted by the DNRETAS), the Department of Resources proceeds with the approval process. The Department of Resources administers the two principal pieces of legislation regulating mining proposals in the Northern Territory—the Mining Act and the MM Act.

Discussion of these and other relevant pieces of Northern Territory legislation is provided below.

## **2.4.1 Mining Act 2005**

The Mining Act establishes the framework for exploration and mining activities. The Mining Act sets out the administrative processes for authorising these activities through the grant of a title. Prior to any activities taking place on a granted Mineral Lease, an authorisation to carry out mining activities under the MM Act must be obtained.

In the Project area, Xstrata Zinc already holds an extensive tenement holding and the Proponent is the operator for activities within these tenements. The Project lies within the Mineral Leases N1121, N1122, N1123, N1124, and N1125 issued under the Mining Act. No new tenements are required for the Project.

## **2.4.2 Mining Management Act 2001**

The objectives of the MM Act are to ensure that the development of mineral resources in the Northern Territory is in accordance with the best practice health, safety and environmental standards and to protect the environment and health and safety of all persons on mining sites.

Under the MM Act, an application for an authorisation to carry out mining activities must be accompanied by a MMP. A MMP includes information relating to the description of mining activities, the management system to be implemented for the management of health, safety and environmental aspects, costing of closure activities and particulars of organisational structure. Plans of any existing or proposed mine workings and infrastructure must also be included.

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

Under Section 43 of the MM Act a financial security may be required by the Minister for the purpose of securing costs and expenses in relation to the Minister causing an action to be taken to prevent, minimise or rectify environmental harm. Mine operators are expected to calculate rehabilitation costs and present these as part of the MMP. Costs are verified and reassessed when revised MMPs are submitted.

## **2.4.2 Mineral Titles Act 2010**

The objectives of the Mineral Titles (MT) Act is to establish a framework for granting and regulating mineral titles that authorise exploration for, and extraction and processing of, minerals and extractive minerals. The act also aims to facilitate the commercialisation of activities conducted under mineral titles by authorising the creation and transfer of interests in the titles, and to authorise other activities relating to minerals or extractive minerals to be conducted without mineral titles. This act has recently come into force, on 7 November 2011.

## **2.4.4 Environmental Assessment Act 1982**

The EA Act and the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures establish the framework for the assessment of potential or anticipated environmental impacts of development, as well as providing for protection of the environment. The Northern Territory Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage is responsible for administering the EA Act.

The Minister also determines the appropriate level of assessment for new developments, or material changes to existing operations based on the sensitivity of the local environment, the scale of the proposal and its potential impact upon the environment.

## **2.4.5 Water Act 2004**

The *Water Act 2004* (Water Act) provides for the investigation, allocation, use, control, protection and management of surface water and groundwater resources, as well as the administrative process for licensing these activities. The Water Act also considers the protection and use of water resources for purposes such as recreational, social and cultural uses.

Under the Water Act, mining activities (as defined by the MM Act) or another activity for a purpose ancillary to that mining activity, including the use of water as drinking water, are exempt from a number of provisions in the Water Act. This includes, and is not limited to, the use of surface water and groundwater, as well as the construction of works to allow for the use of water.

Waste is defined in the Water Act as any solids, liquids or gas, which, if added to the water, may pollute the water. The site currently holds waste discharge licence WDL 174-01. The purpose of this license is to discharge rainwater collected within the mine levee wall and stipulates environmental conditions for both Bing Bong and the mine and includes vigorous monitoring with the inclusion of ecotoxicology studies. Water is also released from the Water Management Dam under this licence. As the Project is proposing to discharge wastewater from groundwater sources into the McArthur River, an amendment to the current waste discharge licence will be applied for with the relevant Northern Territory Government Departments.

## **2.4.6 Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989**

MRM respects the Traditional Owners' sacred sites in accordance with the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (Sacred Sites Act). A number of procedures have been established for the protection and registration of sacred sites, covering access to sacred sites, conditions for access, and procedures for avoiding sacred sites in the development and use of land. Under the Sacred Sites Act an Authority Certificate can be issued that provides legal indemnity against possible prosecution in relation to damage to sacred sites resulting from the works or uses covered by the certificate, as long as any conditions imposed are followed. The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) administers the issue of Authority Certificates in consultation with the relevant custodians under the Sacred Sites Act.

A number of Indigenous site investigation studies have been undertaken and agreements made with the Traditional Owners for the current Mineral Lease approvals. Site investigations were also undertaken for the

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

areas affected by the previous open-pit development EIS in 2005, including archaeological and ethnographic surveys of all land to be disturbed. This work was undertaken in cooperation with Traditional Owners and other local Indigenous elders to ensure sites of cultural significance are protected. Access by mine personnel is prohibited.

MRM already has a number of AAPA Certificates related to 17 identified sites of cultural significance and additional applications for the Project area will be submitted if required.

## 2.4.7 Other Relevant Legislation

Other Northern Territory legislation that may be relevant to the Project includes the following:

- *Aboriginal Land Act 1980*—provides for access to Aboriginal land and certain roads bordered by Aboriginal land. It is anticipated this should not be required for the Project
- *Bushfires Act 1980*—relates to the prevention and suppression of bushfires and outlines when permits are required for controlled burns. Controlled burns are occasionally undertaken at MRM and will continue for the Project
- *Control of Roads Act 2001*—provides process by which roads can be opened and closed. Any public or gazetted roads that are required to be opened or closed as a result of construction or operation of a mining development will follow the provisions of this Act
- *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*—provides for the safe storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods. MRM will continue to obtain licences for storage or transportation of dangerous goods defined under this Act
- *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2010*—makes provision for safety in the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail. Involvement in the transport of dangerous goods by road or rail includes, and is not limited to, being the consignee of dangerous goods, loading or unloading dangerous goods that have been transported or the importation or arrangement to import dangerous goods into Australia. This Act applies to the transport of dangerous goods like explosives to the Project's site. The bulk concentrate produced is classified as a Class 9 Dangerous Good which requires specific packaging and drivers to hold Dangerous Goods Transport Licences
- *Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1996*—establishes the penalties for certain offences related to the protection of the environment. MRM has never been penalised under this Act
- *Heritage Conservation Act 1991*—provides for the protection of archaeological places and objects. If any archaeological places or objects are to be disturbed by the Project through mining, permission must be sought from the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to remove, disturb and/or destroy the objects or sites
- *Miscellaneous Acts Amendment (Aboriginal Community Living Areas) Act 2000*—amends certain Acts to make provision for the excision of certain areas of land from pastoral leases and for these areas to be granted an estate as living areas for the benefit of Indigenous people. It is not envisaged this will be applicable for the Project
- *Motor Vehicles Act 1959* and *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations*—this Act and Regulation provide the legislative requirements relating to vehicle standards and dimensional and loading limits, which have relevance to the transport of materials to and from the Project site during the construction and operational phases
- *Planning Act 1999*—provides for appropriate and orderly planning and control of the use and development of land. As the Project activities will take place within existing Mineral Leases, this Act does not apply
- *Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1980*—makes provision for the prevention of soil erosion and for the conservation and reclamation of soil. Under this Act, MRM is considered to be the

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

---

landholder, and as such, may be deemed in breach of the Act should appropriate soil erosion and conservation measures not be adopted and maintained during the life of the Project

- *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000*—lists those species of plants and animals that are protected within the Northern Territory. Under this Act, permits will be required to take or interfere with protected plants or animals. This may apply if protected plants or animals are encountered during the Project's life
- *Traffic Act 1987*—regulates traffic and includes provisions in relation to the erection and operation of traffic control devices. Consent will be required prior to the erection and operation of traffic control devices if required for the Project's construction and operation phases
- *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* – provides for the protection of the environment by encouraging effective waste management and pollution prevention and control practices. Environmental protection approval is required if an activity specified under Schedule 2 of this Act, such as disposing of waste by burial, is to be carried out. This Act may apply to the disposal of Project waste
- *Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act 2000*—provides for the protection of the Northern Territory's water supply system, or any water source from which water is drawn for human consumption. Any abstraction or diversion of water from the Northern Territory's supply system must not be undertaken unless authorized by the appropriate authorities. Penalties are in place for pollution of any water supply or source. This Act applies to the Project's water supply and sewage treatment facilities that will be required on-site
- *Weeds Management Act 2001*—aims to protect the Northern Territory from the adverse impacts of weeds and identifies the responsibilities of all landholders in relation to the management of declared weeds and prevention of their spread. This Act has relevance to weeds that may occur on the Project site
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2007*—aims to promote health and safety in the workplace, and, together with the *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*, requires that a Risk Management Plan be submitted to NT WorkSafe covering the occupational health and safety aspects of the mining operation. This Act applies to all Project health and safety issues.

## 2.4.8 Other Licences, Permits and Approval Requirements

- Archaeological Sites—permits may be required under the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* to destroy or damage archaeological sites and scatters identified from field surveys for the Project
- Blasting—Project blasting permits will be required under the *Dangerous Goods Act 1998*
- Extractive Permits—the development of any borrow pit sites outside of approved mining areas may need to be permitted according to Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources Guidelines
- Water Bores—bores with flow rates less than 15 litres per second (Lps) do not require extraction licences. A Project extraction licence may be required for water bores with flow rates above 15 Lps
- Water Extraction Licences—a licence under the Water Act to take water from surface waters may be required if the Project activities warrant. An application to the Controller of Water Resources will be required in order to obtain this licence
- Water Management Plan – a Project Sustainable Development Water Management Plan has been developed to guide management activities as a supplement to the MMP which will be updated annually and submitted to the NT Department of Resources
- Waste Discharge Licence—management of potentially contaminated water discharge from the site is subject to a Waste Discharge Licence authorised under Section 74 of the Water Act

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

- Sewage Treatment—the wastewater treatment system for the construction and operations accommodation village may be subject to requirements under the *Public Health Act 1987 and Regulations*
- Wildlife Permit—a permit to Take or Interfere with Protected Wildlife under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000* is required prior to undertaking any fauna surveys.

## 2.5 Local Government Requirements

### 2.5.1 Northern Territory Planning Scheme

The Northern Territory Planning Scheme (NT Scheme), prepared in accordance with the *Planning Act 1999*, allows for an integrated planning scheme for land use and development throughout the Northern Territory. The NT Scheme provides policy and guidelines on land use and development of designated areas zoned under the NT Scheme.

### 2.5.2 Roper Gulf Shire Council

The Project area falls within the Roper Gulf Shire Council which is covered by the Regional Management Plan – Central Australia Region. Key issues relating to local government in the region are addressed in the Plan, which includes resource sharing between local councils and regional development. Roper Gulf Shire Council also has a set of by-laws under which the Project will operate where appropriate.

## 2.6 Standards and Codes of Practice

The Project's construction and operational phases will take into consideration all applicable standards and codes of practice, including those listed in Table 2-1. Xstrata Zinc is signatory of 'Enduring Value', the Minerals Council of Australia's Framework for Sustainable Development and the Project will be guided by these principles.

Table 2-1 Standards and Codes of Practice

Description	Standard
National Standard for Manual Handling	NOHSC:1001(1990)
National Occupational Health and Safety Certification Standard for Users and Operators of Industrial Equipment, 3rd Edition.	NOHSC:1006 (2001)
National Standard for Occupational Noise.	NOHSC:1007 (2000)
National Standard for the Control of Inorganic Lead at Work.	NOHSC:1012 (1994)
National Standard for the Control of Major Hazard Facilities.	NOHSC:1014 (2002)
Safe working in a confined space.	AS/NZS 2865:2001
Recommended practices for eye protection in the industrial environment.	AS/NZS 1336:1997
Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices.	AS/NZS 1715:2009
Occupational protective helmets – selection, care and use.	AS/NZS 1800:1998

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

Table 2-1 Standards and Codes of Practice (cont)

Description	Standard
Occupation protective gloves – selection, use and maintenance.	AS/NZS 2161.1:2000
Occupational protective footwear: guide to selection, care and use.	AS/NZS 2210.1:1994
Clothing for protection against heat and flame—General recommendations for selection, care and use of protective clothing	AS/NZS 2801:2008
Occupational protective clothing—Guidelines on the selection, use, care and maintenance of protective clothing	AS/NZS 4501.1:2008
Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices – selection, use and maintenance.	AS/NZS 1891.4:2000
Occupational noise management – hearing protector program.	AS/NZS 1269.3:2005
Classification of hazardous areas – examples of classification – general.	AS/NZS 2430.3.1:2004
Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration – general requirements.	AS 2670.1-2001
Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders – design, construction and installation.	AS 1657-1992
Power-actuated hand-held fastening tools—charges.	AS/NZS 1873.3:2003
Power-actuated hand-held fastening tools—fasteners.	AS/NZS 1873.4:2003
In-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment.	AS/NZS 3760:2003
Portable fire extinguishers and fire blankets – selection and location.	AS 2444-2001
Minimum design loads on structures.	AS1170: 2002
Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes.	AS1289.0:2000
Specification and supply of concrete.	AS 1379-2007
Geotechnical site investigations.	AS 1726-1993
Piling design.	AS 2159-1995
Concrete structures.	AS 3600-2001
Formwork for concrete.	AS 3610-1995
Guidelines on earthworks for commercial and residential developments.	AS 3798-2007
Portland and blended cements—Steel structures.	AS 3972-1997

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment

Table 2-1 Standards and Codes of Practice (cont)

Description	Standard
Steel reinforcing materials.	AS/NZS 4671:2001
Earth retaining structures.	AS 4678-2002
Bridge design.	AS 5100
Austroads Rural Road Design – A Guide to the Geometric Design of Rural Roads.	AP-G1/03
Austroads Pavement Design – A Guide to the Structural Design of Road Pavements.	AP-G17/04
Austroads Waterway Design – A Guide to the Hydraulic Design of Bridges.	AP-23/94
The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.	AS 1940-2004
NT Code of Practice for Small On-site Sewage and Sullage Treatment Systems and the Disposal or Reuse of Sewage Effluent	
Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry.	
Mine Close Out Criteria: Life of Mine Planning Objectives. Northern Territory Government.	
Guidelines For Preparing Mine Closure Plans—Western Australia	

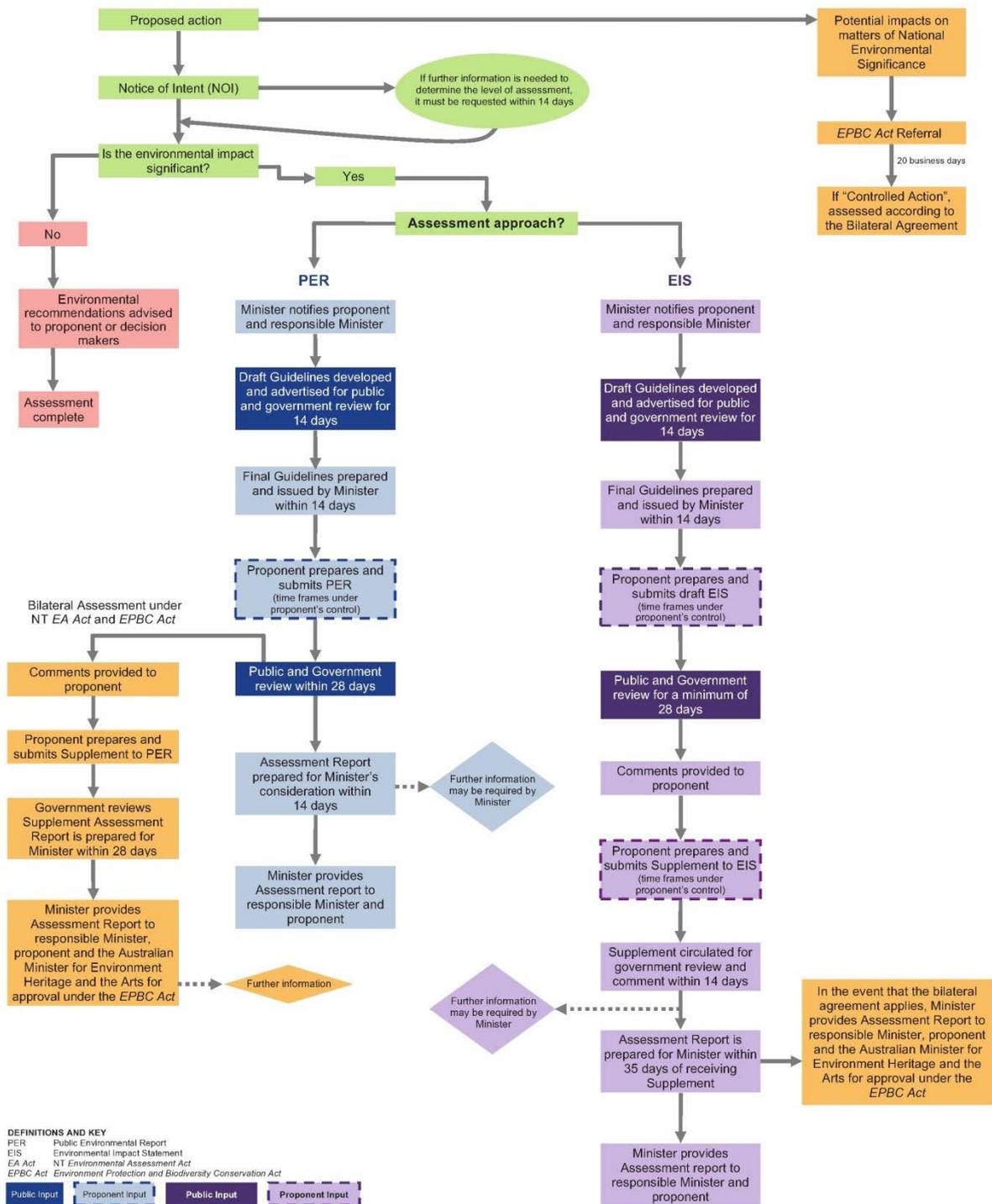
## 2.7 Approval Timeframes

The Northern Territory Environmental Impact Assessment process is shown in Figure 2-1. The process for the Project will follow the EIS assessment approach pathway.

Anticipated approval timeframes for the Project are based on the timeframes identified in the EA Act and information response times estimated by the Proponent.

Following submission of this draft EIS to NRETAS in January 2012, the public comment period is expected to commence in February 2012. The Proponent will compile responses to submissions through the EIS Supplement in March 2012. NRETAS assessment report is expected to be provided to the Proponent following the submission of the EIS Supplement and any other relevant information, with the anticipated approval of the proposed Project to be issued by mid 2012.

# Chapter 2 – Regulatory Environment



**Figure 2-1** Northern Territory Environmental Impact Assessment Process (source: Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Arts and Sport website)